

Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 21, 2013
Meeting Conducted Via VTC at the Ely District Office,
Caliente Field Station and Southern Nevada District Office

Resource Advisory Council members present and category represented:

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| Douglas "Stretch" Baker | Transportation/ROW | Category 1 |
| Jason Higgins | Energy & Minerals Development | Category 1 |
| Robert Adams | Permitted Recreation | Category 1 |
| Elise McAllister | Dispersed Recreation | Category 2 |
| Jane Feldman | Wildlife | Category 2 |
| Thelma "Terri" Robertson | Archeology/Historic | Category 2 |
| Ronda Hornbeck | Public at Large | Category 3 |
| Stanley Smith | Academic/UNLV | Category 3 |
| Mark Blankensop | State Agency Representative | Category 3 |

Resource Advisory Council members absent and category represented:

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| Ed Higbee | Ranching/Grazing | Category 1 |
| Gracian Uhalde | Ranching/Grazing | Category 1 |
| VACANT | Environment | Category 2 |
| Don Davis | Wild Horse and Burro | Category 2 |
| VACANT | Native American | Category 3 |
| VACANT | Elected Official | Category 3 |

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) representatives present:

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| Rosemary Thomas, Des. Federal Official | BLM EYDO District Manager |
| Timothy Smith | BLM SNDO District Manager |
| Thomas Seley | BLM Tonopah Field Manager |
| Chris Hanefeld | BLM EYDO Public Affairs Specialist |
| Hillierie Patton | BLM SNDO Public Affairs Specialist |
| Virginia Aime | BLM Ely District Budget Technician |
| Victoria Barr | BLM CFS Manager |

Public

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|----------------|--------------------------|
| Mike Zaman | Pahrump Advisory Board |
| Arlene Gawne | Spring Mountain Alliance |
| Matt McKnight | Senator Reid's Office |
| Denice DeLucia | Public |
| Robin Warren | Public |

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome and introductions.
- 9:10 a.m. Election of FY13 Officers. The group voted to elect Jason Higgins as Chairperson and Mark Blankensop as Vice-Chairperson.
- 9:25 a.m. Review and Approve Tri-RAC breakout session minutes. The Tri-RAC minutes review was extended for another week. E-mail your comments to Patti Bute by March 28th. Elise has already emailed her comment concerning deleting the recreation part to Patti.
- 9:35 a.m. Verify Subcommittee and Members. The Planning sub group members are:
- Robert Adams, Ronda Hornbeck, Thelma Robertson, E. Higbee, Jane Feldman, and Mark Blankensop. Chair for this group is Thelma Robertson.
- The Recreation sub group members are: Robert Adams, Elise McAllister, Douglas Baker, Ronda Hornbeck, and Thelma Robertson. Chair for this group is Elise McAllister.
- 10:00 a.m. Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 14. Karla Norris, Assistant District Manager, SNPLMA, gave update on SNPLMA Round 14. Only about ½ of the projects will be funded. The public comment period is May 6th to June 19th, 2013. Strategic planning and direction of SNPLMA will be posted to the web in the next few weeks. The website will also be updated with the list of ongoing projects and the results of new project funding by June 2013. The projects of concern list will determine the future funding. Round 15 is being postponed until Fall 2015 to allow time for project completions and closures.
- Jane Feldman asked if the RAC and public might be involved in the distribution of money for programs. Her concern is about the money being spent in other areas, i.e. Sierra Club, thereby not leaving sufficient funds for the original program. Also, are extensions a good idea?
- Karla's reply was that 75% of all the money stayed in Clark County and we are bound by Federal law to manage the land sales. Extending the money eliminates the need to waste labor and time by gearing down projects and then having to gear up again.
- Tim Smith encourages RAC and public feedback and input to SNPLMA. Hillerie Patton suggests that earlier SNPLMA input needs to be addressed at the Tri-RAC meetings.
- Two RAC groups have cancelled meetings and these actions need to be coordinated by the RAC coordinators so that everyone is aware of changes.

Position letters were emailed to all the RAC groups.

10:45 a.m. Resource Management Planning (RMP) update by Tim Smith, Southern Nevada District Manager.

Contract work hasn't been done to expectations and there are hot issues that the RAC sub groups could help on. RMP didn't address renewables. Planning subgroups need information to proceed on project work. B. Ross, LVFM suggests more planning sub group sharing.

RMP update by Tom Seley, Battle Mountain Field Manager (Attachment #1).

Jane Feldman states that the 2008 RMP needs updating for energy projects.

12:30 p.m. Public comment period opens:

Arlene Gawne, Spring Mountain Alliance 1800+ membership. Proposes long range project plans for managing the WHB HMA in Spring Mountain. Plans include: continuous contraceptive program, selective capture and removal of WHB ages 2-10 years adoptable, aggressive local adoption programs, range forage management, and research studies.

John Hitt addressed his concerns on the free range shooting sites. The areas are being littered and causing considerable damage. Suggestions of education and law enforcement were addressed. Also, Mr. Hitt comments about the progress made on removing the hollow mine markers.

Robin Warren, Equine Alliance extends her invitation to us to join their adoption event. No dates were mentioned. Her group would like to work with us on our WHB adoption events.

Alyssa Ohlssen, advocate for WHB and Mountain Lions suggests that we stop burning weeds and let the wild horses eat the weeds. She advocated giving out flyers to educate folks using the shooting ranges.

In response to Alyssa Ohlssen's comment on horses eating the weeds, Stan Smith commented that WHB and cattle are responsible for the spreading of exotic weeds. It was suggested that updates on the weed control program in Red Rock can be found on the website.

Janet Little cited a report from the Cold Creek Fire that WHB eating the weeds does help control fires.

Tim Smith gave a review of his experience of the cleanup efforts on Lake Mead.

Las Vegas planning sub group will work on the litter and damage issues at the new shooting range.

Robert Adams commented that the changes in the leadership in Pahrump are causing delays in regulating the shooting sports. Tim Smith said the subcommittee needs to address this issue.

Elise McAllister suggested that we change the public comment time. Ms. Thomas reminded us that we can change the time but the changes must be included in the news release. It is important that we set a public comment period time and begin as we posted.

1:30 p.m. Public comment period closes.

1:30 p.m. District and Field Manager's Reports:

BLM Southern Nevada District, Tim Smith, provided the group with an update (Attachment #2).

BLM Battle Mountain District, Tom Seley gave an update on the Rhyolite town site restoration. Mr. Seley will email his report to everyone.

BLM Ely District, Rosey Thomas provided the group with the District Manager's Report for the Ely District, and mentioned that our RMP may need to be amended as to the number of off road vehicle trails allowed. We may also need to review and update our So Steptoe Valley travel management plan as well. Pan Mine draft EIS published in Federal Register 3/22/13 and 45 day public comment period begins (Attachment #3).

Victoria Barr gave her update on the Caliente Field Office activities. SNORE was returned an application this year due to the fact that they have not yet completed their area restoration from the last race event. Mt. Irish restoration is moving along. The old toilet was replaced. Thelma Robertson thanks Ms. Barr for this action as it sorely needed to be replaced.

Ms. Thomas informed the RAC and public present about sequestration impacts. There will be a limited ability in production due to budget constraints.

Jane Feldman commented on the Golden Eagle kill. Investigation continues.

Ms. Thomas asked for a response as to whether the group would like to video conference and/or telephone conference. The group's response was telephone conferencing.

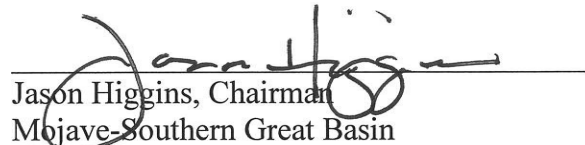
Ms. Thomas also reminded the group that we have several RAC positions open that we need to fill. Recruiting should begin as soon as possible.

It was suggested that before the July 11th meeting, we should have one more meeting. Email each other with suggested times and dates.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

Date: 11 July 2013


Jason Higgins, Chairman
Mojave-Southern Great Basin
Resource Advisory Council

- Minutes provided by Virginia Aime and Patricia Bute, BLM Ely District Office -

Attachments:

- #1 – Battle Mountain RMP Newsletter
- #2 – Southern Nevada District Manager's Report
- #3 – Ely District Office DM Report